

The Evening Times

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1899.

PRICE ONE CENT.

Generally fair tonight and Tuesday; fresh southerly winds.

NUMBER 1111.

GENERAL MILES ON THE WITNESS STAND

Opening Session of the Court of Enquiry.

Testimony Regarding Two Published Interviews.

Lieutenant Colonel Davis Questions the Commanding Officer for a Period of Two Hours.

Gen. Nelson A. Miles was a witness before the Court of Enquiry today. He was the first called to testify and was questioned for over two hours by Lieutenant Colonel Davis, Recorder of the Court, leaving the stand at 2:15 o'clock this afternoon. The second witness was Colonel Van Horn, of the Thirtieth Infantry.

The Court of Enquiry which has been created to investigate the charges made by General Miles against the beef issued by the Commissary Department of the Army during the war with Spain met in the Lemen Building at 10 o'clock this morning.

After an executive session which lasted about half an hour the members of the Court visited the White House and acquainted President McKinley with the fact that the Court was ready to proceed with the investigation which it was appointed to make.

By the order of the President the Court is directed "to investigate certain allegations of the Major General Commanding the Army in respect to the unfairness for issue of certain articles of food furnished by the Subsistence Department to the troops in the field during the recent operations in Cuba and Porto Rico. In addition to the findings of facts the Court will submit an opinion upon the merits of the case, together with such recommendations as may seem to be warranted by the facts developed in the course of enquiry."

A Martial Aspect. There was a martial air about the session chamber. The members of the Court were in full dress uniform, and two sentinels, B. T. Folkerth, Battery K, Fifth Artillery, and J. W. Jett, Battery G, Fourth Artillery, stood guard at the door.

The first of the officers to appear at the Lemen Building this morning was Lieutenant Colonel Davis, Recorder of the Court. The next to arrive was Col. George L. Gillespie, and the remaining members of the Court, Major General James F. Wade and Brigadier General George W. Davis, came together. J. W. Hulst, official stenographer of the Court, was the last to arrive.

The members of the Court returned from the Executive Mansion at noon, Lieutenant Colonel Davis bringing with him two cans of roast beef. The Court was then photographed.

The recorder announced that the Court was ready to proceed with the investigation, and then read the order creating the Court.

"The first witness," said Colonel Davis, "whom it is proposed to examine is the Major General Commanding the Army, who is not now present."

General Miles Sworn. Colonel Davis administered the oath to the members of the Court, was himself sworn, and at this juncture General Miles entered and was sworn.

General Miles took his seat on the right of General Davis and to the left of the recorder. Colonel Davis conducted the examination which proceeded as follows:

Colonel Davis—Did you state to the Court your name and rank?

General Miles—Major Gen. Nelson A. Miles, commanding United States army.

Colonel Davis—General, about the 20th of December did you appear before the Commission appointed by the President to investigate the conduct of the War Department during the war with Spain?

General Miles—It was about that date, though I am not positive as to the exact time.

Colonel Davis—Well, about that time?

General Miles—Yes, sir.

Colonel Davis—Did you submit a statement before that Commission?

General Miles—Yes, sir.

Colonel Davis—Have in my hand the printed report of that Commission in which is incorporated the testimony which it appears you gave before that Commission and I will ask you to examine this report and to tell the Court whether your testimony as it appears here is in substance correct—if in the main it is as you gave it?

Endorses His Testimony. General Miles was then handed the printed report. Running his eyes quickly over those pages on which his testimony is printed he began to read deliberately. Colonel Davis interrupted the witness with the suggestion that he answer whether in the main the report of his testimony appeared to be correct.

General Miles—I think so.

Colonel Davis—I have in my hand what appears to be an interview with you, which was printed in the "New York Journal" of the date of Friday, January 20. I will ask you if such an interview took place and whether it is correct, and if incorrect in what respect is it so?

General Miles, after reading the printed matter which Colonel Davis had handed to him, answered: "As you will notice, in this reported interview there occurs four or five times the statement that I declined to discuss the beef controversy or to give the names of officers. I think that in this report I am not accredited with any allegation which I had not already made in this room before the War Investigating Commission, and which is not to be found also in the reports of officers submitted to me and in my own report."

General Miles answered the impression that it was his belief that the reporter who had written the alleged interview had, after having seen General Miles and after having been refused an interview, taken the published reports of testimony given before the Alger Relief Commission and had revamped it as an interview with the General Commanding the Army.

Frequently Interviewed. Continuing, General Miles said: "During the last three or four months there has scarcely been a day that some one, either a member of the press, or one representing himself as a member of the press, has not



MAJOR GENERAL NELSON A. MILES.

come to me for information or for a statement of some kind. As the press has been so generous in its treatment of the army and particularly in its treatment of the enlisted men, I have made it a point to give these representatives of the press such information as I could."

Colonel Davis—Can you, from an examination of this report, say that the statements contained in it and which are attributed to you, were not made by you?

General Miles—I do not even remember where this alleged interview took place or to whom it is reported that I gave it. I could not recognize the author of it if I were to see his face.

Colonel Davis—Does it incorrectly set forth what was said by you, as far as you can see now?

General Miles—In regard to the action of chemicals I would have to compare those statements with my report. As you understand, it has never been claimed that deleterious chemicals were introduced into the canned roast beef. It has been alleged that only the refrigerated beef was chemically treated for the purpose of preserving it.

Colonel Davis—Are you prepared to say that in this interview you have been correctly quoted?

Incorrectly Quoted. General Miles—I do not think that it is in the main correct.

Colonel Davis—I have also in my hand an extract from the "New York Herald" of February 1, which purports to be an interview with you, and I will ask you if it is incorrect, and if so, in what respect?

General Miles—I have received a letter from the gentleman who wrote this alleged interview in which he says that he is willing to swear that when he came to for an interview I refused to give out any information; that I said the conduct of the war was being investigated under proper authority, and that I could not speak on this subject. I call your attention to this letter and will produce it when it is wanted. I might say, in addition, that I have overwhelming evidence that the beef was treated chemically. I have the reports from various army officers, in which they say that the beef did not look like the same character of beef they had been using at army posts in this country, that it did not taste like it, that it did not smell like it, and I have the testimony of some that chemicals were found in the beef and that it smelled like dead human bodies that had undergone the process of embalming.

Colonel Davis rather insisted on a direct answer from the witness as to whether the reported interview in the "Herald" was accurate or inaccurate.

General Miles—I have the statement, the written statement, of the man who wrote this interview that I declined to be interviewed—that I had made my report and that I would not discuss the situation.

Colonel Davis—Would you like to have your answer read that this interview did not take place?

General Miles—Yes.

Colonel Davis then handed to General Miles a copy of his report open at that place where General Miles discusses the superiority of beef on the hoof over refrigerated beef for the use of troops in the field. Then Colonel Davis said:

"What was your opinion about fresh meat for issue as rations to troops engaged in a campaign in the tropics?"

Regarding Fresh Meat. General Miles—I had no idea that there would be any plan pursued in the matter of furnishing fresh beef to soldiers in the field other than the plan pursued in the American Army for 100 years. I was absorbed with other and weightier matters, such for instance as the organization, mobilization, and equipment of the troops and the general strengthening of the army, so that it might be more powerful than the Spanish forces which it would have to meet. I had no idea that there was contemplated, or that there was to be any change in the plan of supplying the army with fresh beef. In the civil war and during the various Indian campaigns on our frontier a herd of fat cattle was the best means of providing soldiers with fresh beef. I assumed that the troops engaged in active operations against the Spanish would be supplied with fresh meat according to the plan that had so long been followed.

General Miles then learned that the roads in eastern Cuba were impassable for wheeled vehicles but that cattle and horses could get along very well. It is a good grass country and the Spanish army had been supplied with native cattle. In Porto Rico I expected that the same conditions prevailed and the opinion was strengthened by the report of Captain Whitney, who as a spy—or rather, in disguise—made a tour of the island. He learned a great deal about the country and from him I inquired as to the availability of cattle. As I had previously understood, I learned that cattle abounded in Porto Rico. In addition to supplying one million natives with fresh meat, cattle in Porto Rico constitute an article of export just as coffee and sugar do."

Beef on the Hoof. Colonel Davis—You assumed, then, that beef for the army would be supplied on the hoof?

General Miles—Yes.

Colonel Davis—What knowledge had you of the character of the cattle which would be supplied to the army in this way?

General Miles—I expected that cattle would be shipped to Cuba from the United States. Cattle had been plentiful in that island before the war, but the herds had been depleted.

Colonel Davis—Had you given consideration of the question as to how beef served to the army in this manner would work in a tropical country?

General Miles—Troops in Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico have been long supplied in this way, and in those regions the heat is more intense than it is in Cuba or in Porto Rico.

Colonel Davis—What sort of grasses grow in the cattle districts of Cuba and Porto Rico?

General Miles—I never saw better grass anywhere than grows there.

Colonel Davis—Is the grass of the same kind that cattle in other countries are fed on; say bunch grass, buffalo grass, alfalfa, or so forth?

General Miles—I cannot say.

Colonel Davis—Was it a form of grass that was familiar to you?

General Miles—No.

Colonel Davis—You say in your report that down there, there is the best cattle in the world?

General Miles—I did not say the best, but I did say it was as good as any other cattle country in the world.

Colonel Davis—Passing to the question of the character of the cattle, you say they are the finest in existence. Are they large?

General Miles—No; they are not very large, but they appear to be very well bred.

Colonel Davis—Are they exported?

General Miles—I understood so.

Colonel Davis—To what countries are they exported?

General Miles—I do not know.

Colonel Davis—To New York?

General Miles—I hardly think so.

Refrigerated Beef Still Used. Colonel Davis—Is the refrigerated beef still used by the troops down there?

General Miles—I presume so.

Colonel Davis—It has been used for some months?

General Miles—I understand so. You must understand that the conditions which prevail there now and the conditions which prevailed there when the American troops landed are very different. Then there were no refrigerator plants and not even enough ice to supply the hospitals.

Colonel Davis—Would not fresh beef killed in that latitude have to be consumed by the troops too soon after the death of the animal?

The Usual Custom. General Miles—No sir, the usual custom is to slaughter the cattle at about sunset, hang the carcass up and issue the beef the next morning, and it is consumed by the men on the same day.

Colonel Davis—Would the native cattle when turned into beef spoil quicker than the refrigerated beef?

General Miles—No; not as quickly as the refrigerated beef, unless in that refrigerated beef preservatives had been used. It would last longer than the native fresh beef.

General Miles testified that he did not know that canned roast beef was being issued as part of the army rations until he reached Porto Rico, and that as soon as he did learn this he notified the Secretary of War that it was unfit for use and that an abundant supply of fresh native meat could be obtained. When asked by Colonel Davis as to whether he reported the condition of affairs as he found them in Porto Rico to the Commissary General, General Miles answered that he was not required under army regulations to report to that officer.

Colonel Davis asked General Miles again if he knew that canned roast beef was being issued to the troops in Cuba and Porto Rico before he arrived in the latter island.

General Miles answered no.

He said that he knew that canned beef was issued, but it was upon his arrival in Porto Rico that he first heard of canned roast beef, and he formed the opinion there that it was being used as an experiment.

The Adjournment. After hearing Lieutenant Colonel Charles Minor, of the Sixth Infantry, and Major Henry Jackson, of the Third Cavalry, the Court adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a. m.

THE ARMY BILL TAKEN UP.

The Senate Proceeds to the Consideration of the Measure.

At 2 o'clock today in the Senate Mr. Hawley interrupted Mr. Butler, who was speaking on the Postoffice appropriation bill, and moved that the Hull army bill be taken up. Mr. Quay and Mr. Pettigrew objected, and Mr. Hawley called for a quorum, and then stated that he had waited as long as he could; that the army legislation was so important, and he demanded an unconditional surrender.

It was explained that if this motion prevailed it would displace the unfinished business—the Anti-Scalping bill. Mr. Cullum made a plea that the unfinished business be only temporarily laid aside, and concluded by asking unanimous consent that this be the order. Mr. Pettigrew objected.

The motion of Mr. Hawley was then put and the roll call resulted in its adoption, the vote being yeas, 44, and nays, 26. This makes the Hull army bill the unfinished business of the Senate.

Mr. Butler made objection to being taken off the floor, but the Chair ruled that he lost the floor at the end of the morning hour, 2 o'clock.

The bill was then ordered read.

NAVAL PERSONNEL BILL.

The Vote on the Measure Recommended in the Senate.

In the invocation at the opening of the Senate this morning the death of Mrs. Zach Chandler was touchingly referred to.

The vote on the Naval Personnel bill was reconsidered this morning at the request of Mr. Chandler, and the House requested to return the bill to the Senate for correction. Mr. Chandler stating that there were several slight mistakes in the bill.

The Postoffice appropriation bill was taken up for consideration on the request of Mr. Quay, and Mr. Butler took the floor on an amendment offered by him to reduce the amount for railway transportation of the mails from \$30,000,000 to \$24,500,000.

It is the intention of the Military Committee to bring up army legislation as soon as the Postoffice bill is disposed of.

SPANISH WAR VETERANS.

House Committee's Action on the Bill to Admit to Soldiers' Homes.

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill to amend the act authorizing the location of a Branch Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers and Sailors, has reported that the purpose of the amendment is merely to admit to the Branch Home of the disabled Volunteer Soldiers and Sailors all honorably discharged volunteer soldiers and sailors of the late war with Spain upon the same terms and conditions as those who served in the war of the rebellion and the war of 1812, and the Mexican war, are now admitted to such homes. The justice of the proposition, says the committee, is so apparent that it needs no commendation to commend it to its favorable consideration.

TO WIDEN NINETEENTH STREET.

Senate Measure Concerned in by the House.

The House this morning concurred in the Senate amendment to the bill widening Nineteenth Street northwest. The bill now goes to the President.

The bill authorizes the Commissioners of the District to widen Nineteenth Street extended northwest, as now established, to a width of 50 feet from Florida Avenue to Columbia Road, and to connect Wyoming Avenue with Columbia Road.

NICARAGUA CANAL BILL.

A General Belief That the Measure Will Be Passed.

It is generally believed that the Nicaragua Canal bill will pass.

Chairman Hepburn, of the Commerce Committee, will support the River and Harbor bill as amended by the Senate.

Mr. Chandler, of the Finance Committee, is so general principle of the bill in order to save the Nicaragua Canal.

THE NAVAL ACADEMY.

Resolution to Suspend Construction of the Buildings.

Representative Boutelle of Maine, Chairman of the Committee on Naval Affairs, has introduced a resolution relating to the Naval Academy, which he hopes to pass today under suspension of the rules and which is nearly identical with the paragraph stricken out of the Naval Appropriation bill on Saturday of last.

The resolution suspends the construction of the buildings provided for a year ago, and authorizes a commission to examine the situation and make recommendations.

Mr. Mudd, who opposed the adoption of the paragraph in the Naval Appropriation bill on Saturday last, will appropriately make a fight against the resolution.

ENQUIRY INTO ARMY EXPENSES.

The Senate This Afternoon Passed a Resolution Offered by Mr. Cockrell Directing the Secretary of War to Submit a Detailed Statement Showing the Cost of Maintaining the United States Army as it existed by law prior to April 20, 1898, and the cost of maintaining it as it is proposed to be organized by the House bill, as amended and presented to the Senate by Senator Hawley and giving the aggregate pay of the staff, the general officers, and the regimental officers and the enlisted men, when Mr. Bliss will bid farewell to his clerks and introduce the new Secretary.

Wednesday Mr. Bliss will leave for his home in New York city.

Tonight Senator Hanna will give a box party at the Columbia Theatre in honor of Secretary Hitchcock.

Tomorrow night President McKinley and the members of his Cabinet will dine at the Arlington Hotel as the guests of Senator Hanna, and Secretary Hitchcock will be presented to his new associates.

WARSHIPS REACH BERMUDA.

Gun Captain Brownlee, of the Indiana, Lost Overboard.

The battleship Indiana and the cruiser New York, the nucleus of Admiral Sampson's squadron of evolution which left New York last Thursday, arrived at Bermuda this morning.

William J. Brownlee, gun captain, first class, was swept overboard from the Indiana during the passage and drowned. Brownlee was born at Stamford, Norway, twenty-seven years ago and enlisted in the navy in 1883.

No Tidings of the Bulgarian.

London, Feb. 20.—There is still no news of the missing Hamburg-American steamer Bulgaria. The ocean tug Warrior, which has been sent from Newport to the Azores to search for the Bulgaria, will take the direct course in which the steamer probably drifted.

Immediate Delivery.

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FURTHER ARRESTS OF YOUNG ROYALISTS

Disturbers Arraigned in Paris Police Courts Today.

Men Holding Titles and Gentlemen of Fortune Among Them.

Organization of an Anti-Clerical League in the French Metropolis—A War on Churches.

Paris, Feb. 20.—One hundred and five out of 280 persons arrested for taking part in the disorders of Saturday night and yesterday were brought up in the police courts today.

They include prominent titled members of the Young Royalist Association and a number of barristers, professors and gentlemen of fortune. There have been 160 further arrests of disorderly persons.

An anti-clerical agitation has begun to rage with bitterness. An anti-clerical league has been organized with a large membership. Its members are mostly atheists but claim that the church is undermining the state and that their motives are most patriotic. On the highest point of land in Paris there is a new Catholic Church which the anti-clericals describe as "dominating the city."

They are now raising a fund to erect a huge monument on a lot next door to the church to commemorate the cruelties of the Inquisition, their purpose being that the church shall be within the shadow of a symbol of evil.

KIND WISHES OF MR. MCKINLEY.

Congratulations by Cable to the New President of France.

Secretary Hay has sent the following cablegram to Ambassador Porter at Paris: "You will appropriately convey to President Loubet the President's most cordial congratulations on his elevation to the Chief Magistracy of the French Republic and the confidence of the Government and people of the United States for the continual welfare of the French nation."

PLEASED WITH LOUBET.

Satisfaction in Europe Over the French Situation.

London, Feb. 20.—The election of M. Loubet to the Presidency of France, has caused a sense of relief and gratification throughout Europe.

The feeling that a coup d'etat was imminent in France has been dissipated and there is fresh belief in the stability of the Republic.

SON BORN TO EGYPT'S THRONE.

Rejoicing in Alexandria Over the Birth of an Heir.

Alexandria, Feb. 20.—The Khedivah was today delivered of a son. There is great rejoicing at the birth of an heir expectant to the throne.

The Khedivah is already the mother of three girls.

POLO GOES TO PORTUGAL.

Ex-Spanish Minister at Washington Stationed Near Home.

Madrid, Feb. 20.—Senor Polo y Bernabe, formerly Spanish minister to the United States, has been appointed minister to Portugal.

EXPULSED FROM PARIS.

A News Correspondent Ousted Because of His Comments.

Paris, Feb. 20.—The correspondent of the "Nene Freie Presse" of Vienna, has been expelled by the authorities here for remarks made by him on the Dreyfus case in sending dispatches of M. Loubet's election to his paper.

TWO HUNDRED PAIRED.

Fourteen Ballots Cast Today at Harrisburg.

Harrisburg, Pa., Feb. 20.—The joint session today was the greatest farce in the history of the Senatorial deadlock.

Two hundred members of the senate and house were paired, and the others, with a few exceptions, were missing. The ballot resulted: Quay, 9; Jenks, 4; Grow, 1.

TAKES THE OATH OF OFFICE.

Ethan Allen Hitchcock Now Secretary of the Interior.

At 11 o'clock this morning Chief Justice Fuller administered the oath of office to Ethan Allen Hitchcock, the new Secretary of the Interior.

The Hon. Cornelius N. Bliss, Secretary Hitchcock's predecessor, and the new Secretary called on President McKinley previous to the formal transfer of the Interior portfolio.

Secretary Hitchcock will relieve former Secretary Bliss today, but will probably not assume full control of the office until he returns from a contemplated business trip to St. Louis.

Today and tomorrow the former and present Secretary will spend most of their time at the department, where Mr. Bliss will acquaint his successor with the intricacies of the office. An informal reception is to be given to the chiefs of the various departments in the Secretary's room, when Mr. Bliss will bid farewell to his clerks and introduce the new Secretary.

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AGONCILLO ON HIS TRAVELS.

Passes Through Albany on His Way to England.

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 20.—Agoncillo, who represented the Philippines at Washington and fled to Canada upon the outbreak of hostilities between the natives of the Philippines and the United States troops, passed through here this morning on his way to New York. He says he expects to sail for England by the St. Paul on Wednesday. He left Montreal suddenly last night soon after the arrival of the Filipino delegates who reached America a few days ago.

SHOT HIS LITTLE COUSINS.

Evil Effects of a Boy Handling a Loaded Gun.

Newburg, N. Y., Feb. 20.—A shooting accident occurred Saturday morning at the home of Eugene White, a farmer, near Ludingtonville, Putnam county, in which his two small daughters were injured, one of them probably fatally.

While Mr. and Mrs. White were out in the barnyard milking cows their nephew, ten years old, took down Mr. White's gun, which was hanging on the wall, getting upon a chair to get it. The gun went off, wounding Mr. White's daughter, five years old, in the neck and shoulders in a dangerous manner. Another child, three years old, received some of the shot in the face and shoulder and had her forehead shot away.

JESSE JAMES ON TRIAL.

Charged With Complicity in a Railway Train Robbery.

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 20.—The trial of Jesse James, son of the noted bandit of that name, on the charge of train robbery, began in criminal court here today. It is expected to be one of the most sensational inquiries in the criminal annals of Jackson county.

On the result of the trial will depend the liberty of six men and perhaps the lives of several, as train robbery is a capital offense in Missouri, at the discretion of the jury. Able attorneys will assist the State prosecutor, and the defendant will be represented by some of the most prominent members of the Missouri bar.

The crime for which Jesse James is on trial was the holding up of a Missouri Pacific at Leeds, not far from this city on the night of September 22, 1898. According to the confession of W. W. Love, an ex-railroad man, he and five others participated in the hold up.